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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 6/23/1998

[redacted]
[redacted] Senior Advisor to the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewed at his place of employment, FBI Headquarters, Room 4048, telephone 202-324-4055, by the below listed FBI Special Agent. Also present for the interview was JOHN L. BARRETT Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the criminal division of the FBI's Washington Field Office. At the outset of the interview, BARRETT noted that [redacted] had been given a briefing paper summarizing this investigation. [redacted] acknowledged receipt of the briefing paper and stated he had read it. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview, [redacted] provided the following information:

b3 Per CIA

[redacted] knows CLAIR GEORGE and [redacted] through their mutual former careers in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

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GEORGE is originally from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. He was a career CIA officer, always considered a "hot shot" within the directorate of operations. He was known as a leader and for having a hot temper. GEORGE began his CIA career with good jobs. He worked in Africa, the Middle East [redacted] held the position of Director of Congressional Affairs and eventually became Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Operations, a position referred to by [redacted] as "America's top spy." While [redacted] was the CIA Chief of Station [redacted] he met GEORGE, who was then Chief of Station [redacted]

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GEORGE's CIA career ended during the Iran-Contra investigation. He was charged with lying to Congress. His first criminal trial ended with a hung jury, but he was convicted in a re-trial. President Bush pardoned GEORGE and several others convicted in the Iran-Contra investigation.

GEORGE was not fired from the CIA, but directed to resign his position. He took his sudden departure from the CIA

139B-WF-207638-83

Investigation on 6/22/1998 at Washington, DC

File # 139B-WF-207638

Date dictated

by SA [redacted] bsi

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very badly, and as a result, [REDACTED] When GEORGE was booked for his conviction in the Iran-Contra investigation, [REDACTED] of the FBI arranged to have GEORGE discreetly brought into the FBI office. This was to avoid having GEORGE exposed to media coverage. To support GEORGE during the Iran-Contra affair, a fund raiser was held to help pay for GEORGE's legal expenses. GEORGE has remained bitter in the following years about Iran-Contra.

b3 Per CIA

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[REDACTED] did not recall when GEORGE's association began with RINGLING BROTHERS BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS (Ringling Bros), but it was after GEORGE left the CIA. GEORGE was at a dinner party in Georgetown in Washington, DC, and gave a presentation about Angola. Someone from Ringling Bros, possibly [REDACTED] approached GEORGE after his presentation on Angola. The Ringling Bros person was impressed by GEORGE's extensive knowledge of foreign matters, and commented that Ringling Bros paid thousands of dollars for such expertise. This was the beginning of GEORGE's association with Ringling Bros.

b3 Per CIA

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GEORGE worked for Ringling Bros as a "fit-it man," resolving problems encountered by Ringling Bros shows overseas. GEORGE and [REDACTED] worked together. While working for Ringling Bros, GEORGE traveled to the Middle East and South America. GEORGE probably got [REDACTED] involved in working for Ringling Bros. [REDACTED] met with GEORGE a few nights ago and GEORGE said there recently was a falling out between he and Ringling Bros.

b3 Per CIA

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(S) GEORGE had a client who lived in Monaco. [REDACTED] brought GEORGE into a business relationship with the client in Monaco. GEORGE also knows wealthy [REDACTED] from working in [REDACTED] for the CIA. He and his wife have been the guests of these wealthy [REDACTED]

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GEORGE is going blind in one eye as a result of macular degeneration, and is no longer working.

GEORGE has extensive technical knowledge and ability. He has a wide familiarity with the technical intelligence collection techniques used by the CIA, the National Security Agency (NSA), and the FBI. Although he does not have hands-on experience, he well understands sophisticated electronic surveillance techniques. He also has great access to current and

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retired CIA, NSA, and FBI experts in technical intelligence collection techniques.

[REDACTED] does not know whether GEORGE or [REDACTED] have obtained sensitive or law enforcement information, but they have many contacts within the government who have access to such information. However, in 1992 when [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] GEORGE called and asked [REDACTED] to check on a Chinese woman. GEORGE was about to travel to China with Ringling Bros. After checking with some people within the CIA, [REDACTED] decided to give GEORGE the requested information.

b3 Per CIA

[REDACTED] has not heard of [REDACTED] GEORGE associates with a Lebanese attorney with a first name of possibly [REDACTED] and a last name of [REDACTED] GEORGE's favorite restaurants include Decarlo's (phonetic) on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC, the Chevy Chase Club, and The Palm.

b3 Per CIA

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(S) [REDACTED] worked in the CIA as a Latin American specialist. He also served as Chief of Station in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He has a reputation as a womanizer and has been married 2 or 3 times. He is smart, polished, and energetic.

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(S) While he was working in [REDACTED] who was working at CIA headquarters as head [REDACTED] After leaving [REDACTED] for the U.S. [REDACTED] moved near [REDACTED] in the Foxhole Village area in Virginia. They sometimes commuted together to CIA headquarters. [REDACTED] left the CIA in 1991 or 1992 after serving as the Station Chief [REDACTED] He wrote a spy novel after leaving the CIA, and then started working with GEORGE for Ringling Bros. GEORGE wanted to work with [REDACTED] because of [REDACTED] extensive Latin American experience. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] made one million dollars last year, but that may be exaggerated. [REDACTED] like GEORGE, has excellent technical ability and knowledge.

b1 Per CIA
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[REDACTED] associates with [REDACTED] an Associate Deputy Director [REDACTED] within the CIA, and [REDACTED] also formerly of the CIA, and now living in Florida. [REDACTED] may have worked for the Surveys and Investigations committee in Congress. [REDACTED]

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with the CIA and holds a Senior Executive Service (SES) level position.

[REDACTED] relationship with GEORGE and [REDACTED] consists of have dinner two or three times a year, often with other people that worked in the CIA. [REDACTED] last saw [REDACTED] around Christmas last year. Neither GEORGE or [REDACTED] have asked [REDACTED] to provide FBI information.

b3 Per CIA

[REDACTED] has not heard of [REDACTED] nor does he know others involved in private investigation work. [REDACTED] does not know whether GEORGE or [REDACTED] are or have been working with local law firms.

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